purification plant and an independent power plant for the railways;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) how Government would go about in implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) will set up water purification plants for manufacturing and supply of pure drinking water on Railways. Regarding independent power plant, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 18.02.2002 between the Ministry of Railways and National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) for setting up of joint venture power projects. As per MoU, a project committee consisting of members from Ministry of Railways and NTPC shall be constituted to prepare the techno-economic feasibility study report. On the basis of report appropriate action shall be taken.

**Chilli prices in Karnataka**

*27. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that chilli prices have fallen steeply in the country; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no Minimum Support Price mechanism for chillies; if so, what are the details of steps proposed to be taken in that direction;

(c) the total production of chillies in Karnataka during the last three years and the rates of procurement, year-wise; and

(d) whether Government propose for Market Intervention Scheme in Karnataka; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The all India annual average of monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of dry chillies has fallen from 262.4 in 2000 to 248.9 in 2001 indicating a decline of 5.15 percent. However, during the first two months of the current year the WPI picked up to 259.2. The decline in prices is mainly due to cheap availability

of Chinese Red Chillies in the International Market which has weakened export prospects of Indian Red Chillies resulting in depression of local markets.

(b) Chilli is a horticultural product, localized and perishable in nature and since its contribution to total agricultural produce is negligible, it is not covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Scheme. However to protect the interest of the farmers from distress sale in the event of its glut in the market, it could be covered under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) at the instance of the State Government.

(c) The production of chillies in Karnataka during the last 3 years has been as under:—

| Year | Production (MT) |
|---|---|
| 1998—99 | 146500 |
| 1999—00 | 157200 |
| 2000—01 | 144100 |

(d) Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) can be considered only after a formal request from the State Government is received in the prescribed proforma informing the Government of India that the State Government is ready to share the losses if any, in the implementation of the scheme as per the rules. So far, no proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for implementation of MIS for chillies during the current year 2001-2002.

**Agricultural subsidies for farmers**

*28. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHME KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural subsidies extended, in different forms, to farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and other States; and

(b) whether any fresh proposals for such subsidies have been received from State Governments; if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Subsidies given to agriculture are both product and non-product specific. These include subsidies on fertilizers, diesel, electricity and water etc. and also support in the form of research extension, market intervention etc. Accordingly total